

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01878 281159Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02
OMB-01 MCE-00 ACDA-07 EB-08 /071 W
-----091022 281222Z /40

R 281026Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5131
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1878

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, BA, SA
SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO BAHRAIN: SAUDI ROLE AND DEFENSE
SURVEY REPORT

REF: (A) STATE 197346 (B) STATE 195932

1. AMBASSADOR MET AUGUST 28 WITH HEIR APPARENT/DEFENSE
MINISTER, SHAIKH HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA, TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES
OUTLINED REF (B) AND TO DELIVER COPIES OF DEFENSE SURVEY
REPORT (REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS SENT TO SHAIKH HAMAD JULY 18).
HE IS PLEASED THAT WE WISH TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH GOB, RATHER
THAN HAVE SAG CONTROL ALL ASPECTS OF ANY SALES, BUT DOES
NOT WANT TO INFORM SAG OF AUGUST 28 CONVERSATION OR FORMALLY
TO REQUEST ROCKETS UNTIL WE CAN CONFIRM THAT SAG HAS BEEN
INFORMED THAT REF (B) PROCEDURES ARE TO BE USED. PLEASE
ADVISE SOONEST WHEN SAG WAS OR WILL BE SO INFORMED.

2. SHAIKH HAMAD SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE SURVEY REPORT
BUT THAT LONG DELAY IN RECEIVING OUR STUDY HAD MADE IT
NECESSARY FOR BAHRAIN DEFENSE FORCE (BDF) TO PROCEED WITH
PURCHASES FROM OTHER SOURCES. HE SAID SAG IS JUST ABOUT
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TO SIGN CHECK FOR TWELVE AGUSTA BELL 212 HELICOPTERS WHICH
BDF HAS ORDERED AND THAT GROUND FORCES ARE NOW IN "GOOD
SHAPE". (HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON WHAT EQUIPMENT HAD
BEEN ACQUIRED OR ORDERED RECENTLY FOR GROUND FORCES.)

3. SHAIKH HAMAD SAID HE WOULD STUDY SURVEY BEFORE COM-
MENTING ON AIR DEFENSE AND COMMAND AND CONTROL ASPECTS BUT

DID WANT TO DISCUSS PATROL BOATS. HE SAID IT IS HIS INTENTION TO ACQUIRE BOATS WHICH HAVE OR WHICH CAN BE RETRO-FITTED WITH MISSILES, AND THAT HE VERY STRONGLY PREFERS THAT BOATS BE FROM U.S. SHAIKH SAID HE FELT THAT IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO GET DELIVERY ON BOATS AND ABOUT THREE-FOUR YEARS FOR BAHRAINIS TO ACQUIRE SEAMANSHIP SKILLS TO RUN THEM. THEREFORE, HIS PROJECTION FOR ACQUIRING MISSILES FOR BOATS WOULD BE SIX-SEVEN YEARS FROM DATE OF ORDER. HE MADE STRONG PLEA THAT USG AGREE TO SELL BOATS WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT HARPOON MISSILES WOULD BE SUPPLIED AT FUTURE DATE. IT WAS CLEAR THAT SHAIKH HAMAD WANTS BOATS AND MISSILES OF TYPE NOW BEING BUILT FOR SAG. HE ADDED THAT IF RETRO-FITTING NOT POSSIBLE FOR HARPOON THAT BOATS BE EQUIPPED FOR MISSILES FROM OUTSET BUT THAT MISSILES BE WITHHELD UNTIL BDF ABLE TO HANDLE THEM. ADDED THAT BRITISH, FRENCH, AND GERMANS ALL PUSHING PATROL BOATS BUT HE WANTS AMERICAN. HE SAID KUWAITIS ARE ACQUIRING A "BASTARD" BOAT -- BRITISH HULL, GERMAN ENGINES, FRENCH MISSILES -- WHICH IS TYPE OF THING HE WANTS TO AVOID. SAID HE WANTS US EQUIPMENT BECAUSE AMERICANS PROVIDE BEST TRAINING AND BACK-UP.

4. AMBASSADOR REMINDED SHAIKH HAMAD THAT SURVEY REPORT NOT AN AGREEMENT OR COMMITMENT TO SELE BUT THAT OF COURSE ANY FORMAL REQUEST WOULD BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON FOR DECISION. SHAIKH SAID HE WOULD BE TAKLING AGAIN TO AMBASSADOR AFTER STUDYING SURVEY REPORT IN DETAIL. MEANWHILE, HE
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SAID AGAIN THAT HE WOULD LIKE CONFIRMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT SAG HAS BEEN INFORMED OF USG PROCEDURES SO ROCKET ORDER CAN PROCEED.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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